

To the nurses of Ward 2 East,

Firstly, let me begin by saying thank you.

In late July 2013, I was admitted to the oncology ward at Epworth. At the time I was sick, in enormous amounts of pain, and overwhelmed by my cancer diagnosis. I had to undergo immediate radiotherapy and chemotherapy, resulting in over five weeks spent in hospital away from my family.

During this time, I had the pleasure of meeting many of the nurses that work on the ward. All of you were kind, considerate and ready to listen to my concerns no matter how busy you were. More importantly, you encouraged me and gave me hope... and sometimes a little shove to get up and get moving and stop feeling sorry for myself.

I cannot possibly hope to remember the names of every nurse to whom I owe such a huge debt of gratitude, but I would like to recall a few. Josie, who greeted everyone with a smile; Daniel, who popped by for a chat in his break — even when he wasn't nursing me; Samira, who often popped by my room when she knew my kids were visiting and always had some biscuits for them. Then there were Lucy, Kelly and Vijay, the nurses who moved me to a larger room to accommodate my visitors and so my kids would have more space when they came; Maria, the cleaning lady who always had time to chat about places we would like to travel to; and the guys (and girl) who took me daily for radiotherapy — my list goes on and on.

The little kindnesses that you see as part of your everyday job mean so much, especially to patients like me, who are scared and tired and generally feeling overwhelmed and unwell. Nothing ever seemed to be too much bother and you all made my time in hospital so much more bearable.

You are a special breed of nurse to be able to take on the tasks that you do daily.

Thank you to all of you.

Kind Regards

Alison

